

CONTAGIOUS ABORTION

Government Inaugurates Campaign to Lessen Losses Caused by This Serious Disease of Cattle

The Bureau of Animal Industry of the department inaugurated its campaign to lessen contagious abortion in beef and dairy cattle with a special exhibit at the National Dairy Show which opened in Springfield, Mass., on October 12.

This animal disease, which it is estimated is costing cattle owners \$20,000,000 a year in dead calves and lowered milk production, the government veterinarians say is second in importance only to tuberculosis in cattle, and rapidly is coming to the front as the most costly and serious disease which the dairy industry in the United States has to combat. Reports from many sections indicate that the disease is spreading rapidly to all parts of the country. Congress at its last session recognized the seriousness of the disease by appropriating \$50,000 to be used by the department in studying the scourge and developing methods for its control.

Abortion in cattle, which prevents the bearing of live calves and frequently causes cows to become sterile and remain dry, is caused by the Bacillus Abortus. This bacillus is carried from animal to animal and from herd to herd by infected bulls and cows and may be spread in herds by infected feed and water or the discharges of aborting animals. The disease is controllable by isolation and antiseptic treatment of infected animals and by disinfection and sanitation of barns and cattle lots. The department veterinarians, however, place the greatest emphasis on preventive measures. Proper disinfection of bulls and cows will prevent its spread, and persistent antiseptic treatment of aborting cows will overcome sterility and enable the cows to produce healthy calves. The Government specialists, however, know of no internal drugs that will effect quick and positive cures, and state that serum treatment as yet is in an

experimental stage. The exhibit at Springfield, therefore, is devoted entirely to illustrating the simple and inexpensive preventive and control measures which the government pathologists have found effective.

The department's booth contains a number of charts and photographs dealing with the disease and warning cattle owners of its danger, and in addition contains a complete exhibit of the inexpensive disinfectants and simple apparatus needed by the farmer to protect his herd or to combat the disease if it has gained a foothold. The exhibit is in charge of government pathologists who explain to cattle owners how to apply these methods.

The department also has in preparation a Farmers' Bulletin and circulars conveying exact information designed to encourage dairymen and cattle raisers to apply these remedies and join with the Department of Agriculture and their state colleges and experiment stations in a campaign for the control and eradication of this threatening infection.

NEBRASKA STUDENTS WIN

At the students' judging contest, held in connection with the National Dairy Show at Springfield, Mass., this month, the University of Nebraska students made a clean sweep of honors.

Nebraska won first place in the open contest in competition against seventeen teams from that many other state institutions and walked away with three \$400 scholarships, three leading trophies, and two gold medals. One of the three Nebraska contestants, W. F. Roberts, of O'Neill, was high man among the fifty-four students competing, and E. R. Snyder of Kearney ranked fourth from the top of the list. C. C. Vasey of Liberty, Nebr., was the third member of the team, S. R. Kelly of Nora, Nebr., acting as alternate.

The eighteen schools in the contest finished in the following order: Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Massachusetts, Newham, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Maine, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, North Carolina, Connecticut, Vermont, Delaware and Maryland.

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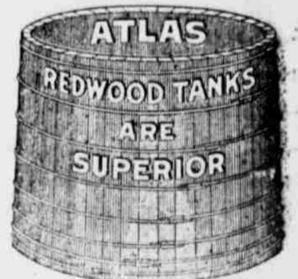
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